

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1549

Introduced by Assembly Member Rendon

January 27, 2014

An act to amend Section 66281.5 of the Education Code, relating to postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1549, as introduced, Rendon. Postsecondary education: Equity in Higher Education Act.

Existing law, known as the Donahoe Higher Education Act, sets forth, among other things, the missions and functions of California's public and independent segments of higher education and their respective institutions of higher education. Provisions of the act apply to the University of California only to the extent that the Regents of the University of California, by appropriate resolution, act to make a provision applicable.

A portion of the Donahoe Higher Education Act known as the Equity in Higher Education Act requires, among other things, that each postsecondary institution in the state have a written policy on sexual harassment and display a copy of that policy in a prominent location, as defined, in the main administrative building or other areas of the campus or schoolsite.

This bill would add to the Equity in Higher Education Act a provision requiring that the written policy on sexual harassment also be displayed in a prominent location on the official Internet Web site of each postsecondary educational institution.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 66281.5 of the Education Code is amended to read:

66281.5. (a) It is the policy of the State of California, pursuant to Section 66251, that all persons, regardless of their sex, should enjoy freedom from discrimination of any kind in the postsecondary educational institution of the state. The purpose of this section is to provide notification of the prohibition against sexual harassment as a form of sexual discrimination and to provide notification of available remedies.

(b) Each postsecondary educational institution in the State of California shall have a written policy on sexual harassment. It is the intent of the Legislature that each educational institution in this state include this policy in its regular policy statement rather than distribute an additional written document.

(c) The postsecondary educational institution's written policy on sexual harassment shall include information on where to obtain the specific rules and procedures for reporting charges of sexual harassment and for pursuing available remedies.

(d) A copy of the postsecondary educational institution's written policy on sexual harassment shall be displayed in a prominent location in the main administrative building or other area of the campus or schoolsite *and on the official Internet Web site of the institution*. "Prominent location" means that location, or those locations, in the main administrative building or other area, *and on the official Internet Web site of the institution*, where notices regarding the institution's rules, regulations, procedures, and standards of conduct are posted.

(e) A copy of the postsecondary educational institution's written policy on sexual harassment, as it pertains to students, shall be provided as part of any orientation program conducted for new students at the beginning of each quarter, semester, or summer session, as applicable.

(f) A copy of the postsecondary educational institution's written policy on sexual harassment shall be provided for each faculty member, all members of the administrative staff, and all members of the support staff at the beginning of the first quarter or semester of the school year, or at the time that there is a new employee hired.

- 1 (g) A copy of the postsecondary educational institution's written
- 2 policy on sexual harassment shall appear in any publication of the
- 3 institution that sets forth the comprehensive rules, regulations,
- 4 procedures, and standards of conduct for the institution.

O